



## Berlin Police Department

in WILLIAM STREET  
BERLIN, MARYLAND 21811

May 51, 2007

FILED/ACCEPTED

Marlene H. Dortch, secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

MAY 15 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Reference: Docket # 7-16

Mrs. Secretary:


I am the Chief of Police for the historic Town of Berlin in Worcester County, Maryland. With a population of about 3,800 people, the town is, also, home to 5 schools and Worcester County's only hospital. This coupled with the fact that Berlin neighbors the Eastern Shore of Maryland's largest attraction Ocean City makes it a hub of activity throughout the year. As you are quite aware recent events have made everyone stop and ponder about domestic and international terrorism. The ability to effectively communicate has been in the forefront of all discussions. Any program or process that can improve or provide a back up to our current communication systems is welcomed.

As any public servant will tell you, we are devoted to the safety and well being of the residents and guest of the Town of Berlin. For this reason, I support any program that would develop a communication system that could operate when power or traditional cable lines are down. Plus, the fact that this program in the form of docket # 7-16, brought forth by M2Z Network, wishes to offer this service for free only strengthens my support. The Department of Homeland Security has estimated that it would cost nearly \$18 billion to develop an interoperable network of this caliber, not to mention that it would take decades to develop. Many communities find it hard to pay for the basics of public safety let alone this type of advanced program.

From a public safety standpoint, we need a data network to strengthen the existing one used by our first responders. There is a tremendous need for an interoperable communications system that is robust and resilient. I believe the data communications system, included in the proposal from M U networks, would be a great benefit to my community and the nation as a whole.

I ask your commission to please approve docket # 7-16.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Arnold Downing  
Chief of Police

cc: FCC Chairman, Kevin Martin  
FCC Commissioners: Copps, Adelstein, Tate, McDowell  
Wireless Bureau Chief, Fred Campbell  
Senator Cardin  
Senator Mikulski  
Congressman Wayne Gilchrest

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